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RCE  
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Address to:  
Commissioner for Patents  
Box RCE  
Washington, DC 20231

Application Number	09/537,738
Filing Date	03/29/2000
First Named Inventor	Ranganathan, et al
Art Unit	2861
Examiner Name	David Yockey
Attorney Docket Number	12019-08NEC

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR §1.114**
- a.  Previously submitted
- i.  Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR §1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
  - ii.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Enclosed
- i.  Amendment/Reply
  - ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
  - iv.  Other Submission Under 37 CFR 1.114
2. **Miscellaneous**
- a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR §1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR§1.17(i) required)
- b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR §1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR §1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_
- i.  RCE fee required under 37 CFR §1.17(e) 01/08/2003 AWONDAF1 00000085 09537738
  - ii.  Extension of time fee (37 CFR §§1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:2801 370.00 OP
  - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Check in the amount of \$ \$370.00 enclosed
- c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)
- WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

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**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print / Type)	Norman E. Carte	Registration No. (Attorney / Agent)	30,455
Signature		Date	30 Dec '02

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Wyrens

Applicant : Ranganathan, et al.  
Application No.: : 09/537,738  
Filed : March 29, 2000  
Title : INKING SYSTEM AND METHOD  
  
Grp./Div. : 2861  
Examiner : David Yockey  
  
Docket No. : 12019-08/NEC

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December 30, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
Commissioner:

This is a submission under 37 CFR 1.114 which accompanies a Request for Continued Prosecution. Please note that a Notice of Appeal was filed on October 28, 2002, thus making this submission and the RCE timely filed.

Please reconsider the previously provided arguments in support of patentability below and the new arguments which follow. The new arguments are in bold for your convenience.

In the rejection of Claims 21-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in the Final Office Action dated May 28, 2002, the Examiner stated that Preszler disclosed “a first coupling component (cover 22) of a duplex coupler” and a “complimentary second coupling component”. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Preszler reference neither discloses nor makes obvious the use of a duplex coupler.

Rather, the Preszler reference merely discloses the use of the cover 22 which cooperates with a fitting 26 and a tube 18 to facilitate coupling of a replenisher bottle 10 to a tank 14.

"A sealing 4036 is place across an opening 38 at the top of the neck 34" of the replenisher bottle 10 (column 3, lines 24 and 25). "The end of the replenisher tube 12 is beveled to a relatively narrow point 48 to puncture the 4036 and push the 4036 out of the way of the tube 12 during insertion of the replenisher tube 12 into the replenisher bottle 10 (Column 3, lines 6-60). Thus, the Preszler reference merely discloses the use of a puncturing tube 12 for puncturing a foil 36 so as to facilitate coupling of the replenisher bottle 10 to the tank 14.

Such puncture tube and foil does not define a duplex coupler. As stated in the subject Patent Application, "The first component of the duplex coupler, when separated from the second component and attached to a replaceable bottle of ink provides a sealed unit that is easily unsealed for the dispensing of ink by simply inserting the first component, with its attached bottle of ink, into the second component." (page 4, paragraph 3). The specification of the subject Patent Application further states that "the filling procedure from the bottle is readily terminated by unlocking the connection between the first and second components which seals both of the components and thus provides an efficient spill-proof technique . . .(page 5, paragraph 1). Thus, a duplex connector is capable of sealing and re-sealing.

It is respectfully submitted that the puncture tube and foil coupler of the Preszler Patent does not define a duplex coupler because removal of the puncture tube from the foil does not result in resealing of the foil (thus not sealing both of the components of the present invention) and consequently does not provide an efficient spill proof technique as in the present invention.

Further, according to the specification of the subject Patent Application, "A poppet advantageously is reciprocally disposed in one component and acted upon by the other component to open a fluid passageway" (page 5, paragraph 3). No such poppet is disclosed in the Preszler reference. Thus as defined in the specification of the subject Patent Application, a duplex coupler is a coupler which advantageously utilizes a poppet in order to seal both of the components being coupled in order to provide an efficient spill-proof technique while facilitating such coupling. The Preszler reference neither discloses nor makes obvious the use of such a duplex coupler.

Moreover, paragraph 1 of page 9 and paragraph 1 of page 10, paragraph 3 of page 12 describe in further detail the structure and operation of a duplex coupler according to the present invention, wherein a poppet is moved so as to facilitate fluid flow only when the coupling is mated and wherein the poppet seals the coupling and prevents fluid flow when the coupling is not mated. The Preszler does not disclose any such structure or function.

Rather, the Preszler reference is directed to solving an altogether different problem from leakage (which is addressed by the subject Application). The Preszler reference addresses the problem of preventing "male components from being mounted on incorrect female components" That is, the Preszler reference provides a key in system so as to assure that only the proper components are mated to each other, but does not address leakage of all such components. Indeed, no reference to "a duplex" coupler or any such structure or functionality is found in the Preszler reference.

Claim 21 of the subject Patent Application recites "a first coupling component of a duplex coupler formed to the container"; independent claim 24 recites "a first coupling component of a duplex coupler formed to the container" and "a complimentary second coupling component of the

duplex coupler formed to the reservoir"; and independent claim 27 recites "providing a container configured to hold ink, the container having a first coupling component of a duplex coupler formed thereto" and "providing a reservoir configured to receiving from the container the reservoir having a complimentary second coupling component of the duplex coupler formed thereto". The cited reference neither discloses nor makes obvious such use of a duplex coupler.

**Further, it is important to appreciate that an additional advantage of the present invention is that air pressure balance is maintained during connection and disconnection of the ink supply when utilizing the duplex valve. Since the duplex valve seals on both sides, air pressure does not tend to move ink within the printer, and thus upset the air pressure balance. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that maintenance of the air pressure balance is important because it allows a new ink source to be added without the requirement for any re-priming or other fluid manipulation of the system.**

**Further, the duplex valve of the present invention substantially inhibits the undesirable introduction of contaminants, such as dirt or moisture into the ink supply system. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that such contaminants have an adverse affect upon the printing process and may, indeed, prevent printing altogether.**

**Additionally, the duplex valve of the present invention prevents the introduction of air into the ink supply system of the printer. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the undesirable introduction of air into the ink supply system of a printer may create an air-lock which prevents ink flow and therefore causes printing to undesirably cease.**

**It is also important to appreciate that the duplex valve of the present invention is structurally different from the prior art, in that it utilizes a poppet to effect opening and**

Application No. 09/537,738

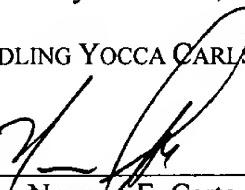
closing thereof. No such poppet is disclosed by the Prezler reference. A poppet is an inherent part of a duplex valve.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the subject Patent Application is in a condition for an immediate allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Please address all correspondence to STRADLING YOCCA CARLSON & RAUTH, IP Department, 660 Newport Center Drive, Suite 1600, P.O. Box 7680, Newport Beach, California 92660-6441.

Respectfully submitted,

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NEC/nmd